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Lesson Courses, J. T. McFarland, D.D., New York; Committee on Reference and Counsel, A. J. Rowland, D.D., Philadelphia.

Model Standards for Sunday Schools as Adopted by the Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations and the Executive Committee of the International Sunday School Association, Dayton, Ohio, January 20-24, 1913

One of the greatest advances ever made by the Sunday-school world was the unanimous action of two great bodies, representing fifteen million Sunday-school workers on the continent of North America, in adopting the following document:

1. That the International Sunday School Association and the Sunday School Council of Evangelical Denominations recognize it to be the right and responsibility of each denomination to determine standards for its own Sunday schools.
2. That the International, State, and Provincial Associations be requested to promote denominational standards in denominational schools.
3. That all Sunday schools meeting the requirements of their denominations be known as standard schools.
4. That standard schools meeting the requirements of the State and Provincial Associations, in addition to their denominational requirements, be known as international standard schools.
5. That no denominational school shall be recognized as a standard school or as an international standard school, until it has conformed to the standard of its denomination.
6. That the Sunday School Council and the International Sunday School Association jointly prepare and issue a leaflet for use by the International, State, and Provincial Associations,

giving in full the Sunday-school standards of each denomination.

7. That all denominations be urged to adopt Sunday-school standards.

8. That each denomination be urged to include at least the following points in its requirements for a standard school:

- (1) Cradle Roll.
- (2) Home Department.
- (3) Organized Bible Classes in Secondary and Adult Divisions.
- (4) Teacher Training.
- (5) Graded Organization and Instruction.
- (6) Missionary Instruction and Offering.
- (7) Temperance Instruction.
- (8) Definite Decision for Christ Urged.
- (9) Offerings for Denominational Sunday-school work.

(10) Workers' Conferences regularly held.

(The above ten points are the minimum requirements for a standard school. Any additional denominational points required will be included in the leaflet as provided for in Section 6 above.)

The following three affiliation or association points were adopted as the minimum additional requirements for an International standard school (see Section 4):

- (1) Offering for interdenominational Organized Sunday-school Work.
- (2) Annual Statistical Report to County Association.
- (3) Attendance at Annual County Convention.

9. That the International, State, and Provincial Associations be requested to promote the foregoing standards, together with such other requirements as provincial and territorial needs may make advisable among schools having no denominational standards.

10. It is understood that the above recommendations apply likewise to Union Sunday schools, except in the matter of denominational offerings.

CHURCH EFFICIENCY

A Year of Celebrating

A movement to "crystallize Lutheran sentiment and bring out Lutheran consciousness," to culminate in 1917 with a

nation-wide commemorative celebration of the four-hundredth anniversary of the Reformation, has been announced by a committee of Lutheran clergymen in New York

City. A meeting of the organization will be held this month, when the establishment of district bureaus to direct work among churches and civic organizations in all parts of the country will be authorized.

American Protestants are planning to celebrate the Judson and Livingstone centennials, several bodies seeking to raise large sums for foreign missions.

The Church of Rome has in mind a notable celebration. It will be the sixteen-hundredth anniversary of the triumph of Constantine the Great over the enemies of Rome in 313. A memorial was to have been erected in a suburb of Rome. The Curia was forced to receive permission from the non-Catholic mayor of Rome. The papal committee had intended to place on the bronze tablet "In the Pontificate of Pius X," but the mayor objected and insisted that it should read, "In the memory of Victor Emanuel III." Just what the outcome of the controversy will be is still an unassignable quantity.

Protestantism in Utah

An interesting statement comes from Utah, the home of Mormonism, regarding the strength of the Protestant denominations. The Presbyterians have 1,800 members, with property valued at \$475,000; the Methodists, 1,500 members, with property valued at \$215,000; the Episcopalians, 1,300 members, with property valued at \$625,000; and the Baptists, 1,085 members, with a property valuation of \$140,000.

The Final End of Serfdom

Serfdom is finally at an end in and throughout the Russian empire. A law of this character passed the Duma a short time ago. Many people have labored under the impression that a general emancipatory act was passed in 1861, but this act in reality did not have reference to the Caucasus region. Transitional measures

of a supposedly temporary nature were adopted, but only after the lapse of more than fifty years was the transitional stage terminated. It is reported that the premier encountered great difficulty when he announced this platform of nation-wide emancipation.

The Republic of China, it is to be hoped, will be recognized by the United States at this session of Congress. Senator Bacon, of Georgia, introduced a bill to this effect and there are no signs of strong opposition. The recent Federal Council of the Churches of Christ in America passed a resolution urging that such recognition be immediate. It is hard to understand our government's delay in the matter, for America has always been friendly toward China. It is only twelve years since the great diplomat John Hay, then secretary of state, saved China from partition.

An American Library in Germany

A symptom of the increasing German interest in American affairs is found in the movement to establish a "theological America-library" at the University of Marburg. The originator is Dr. Karl Bornhausen, and the movement has the assent and co-operation of the Prussian Ministry of Worship and Education. The government will guarantee the maintenance of the proposed library, while the books, periodicals, and other material bearing on religious life in America will be provided by special funds. The institution will serve as an authoritative center of information for German students of American religious and church life; and it will also promote the mutual acquaintance of students from both countries. Its work will be officially reported by a yearbook.

Object-Lessons as to Sin

If anyone wishes to see the work of sin in the world he should not fail to look at the

reports of the various charitable and reform societies of a great city. Of course it is true that economic conditions are partly responsible for wrongdoing, but that does not remove the fact of the misery which wrongdoing is causing in our world. In the latest report sent out by the United Charities of Chicago the following figures are eloquent of the need of more aggressive work on the part of the church in our social order.

The conditions which had to be dealt with included 1,613 cases of deserted wives; 121 cases of unmarried mothers; 1,240 cases of intemperance, and 212 cases of venereal diseases.

The Society for the Suppression of Vice of New York City during the past year has seized 63,139 pounds of obscene books, 83,609 obscene pictures, 1,577,411 circulars, songs, etc., of an indecent character, and arrested over 200 persons wrongfully engaged. The society also seized over one million names of persons to whom this printed matter was presumably to be mailed.

The terrible conditions seen in these figures indicate that Christian men and women must be governed by a knowledge of social conditions but that they ought none the less to be vigorously moral and religious. The moment the church accepts sin as ir-remedial—a matter of course—it ceases to be of social significance. One cannot save the world by optimistic euphemisms.

A Reorganized Young Men's Christian Association

The University of Pennsylvania has placed the conducting of its religious, ethical, and social work, including the university settlement in Philadelphia and the University Medical School of Canton,

China, in the hands of a corporation known as the Christian Association of the University of Pennsylvania. Officers and voting members in the association are required to be evangelical church members and to sign the following statement: "It is my purpose as a university man, receiving Jesus Christ as my Savior, Lord, and God, to live a consistent Christian life as I understand it to be set forth in the Bible."

Happy Iceland

Iceland presents the churchly ideal. The traveler in that country finds a utopia. There are no jails, no penitentiary, nor is there need for any, no court of justice, and only one policeman, and it is understood that his job is a sinecure. Not a drop of alcoholic liquor is made on the island. Its 78,000 inhabitants are total abstainers, since they will not permit any liquor to be imported. There is not an illiterate person on the island nor a child ten years old unable to read.

Distributing Bibles by the Million

The American Bible Society has been remarkably active during the past year. In the United States officers of the Society have distributed 1,575,000 books, 1,280,787 in English and 300,000 in seventy other languages. About 376 officers made this distribution, the average for each being 4,189.

The Growth of Christianity

In 1800 only seven out of every one hundred of population were members of the church. In 1900 twenty-four out of each one hundred were thus connected. In view of this fact there is not much place for pessimism.